IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A tangible item delivery system in which a public switched telephone network is used to make connection between a sender's terminal apparatus of a sender and a recipient's terminal apparatus of a recipient intended to receive the tangible item from the sender by way of a delivery agency,

wherein the recipient's terminal apparatus is configured to obtain a public key from the delivery agency via a specified medium, to use the public key so obtained to encrypt recipient information as recipient's encryption information containing at least private information needed to enable delivery of the tangible ~~items~~ item to the recipient, and to transmit the recipient's encryption information to the sender's terminal apparatus;

wherein the sender's terminal apparatus is configured to receive and provide the recipient's encryption information as part of a tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information that the sender includes with the tangible item and forwards to the delivery agency; and

wherein the delivery agency has a cryptogram reader configured to read and decrypt the tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information using a secret key known only to the delivery agency so that the delivery agency obtains the private information from the decrypted tangible encrypted medium to enable the tangible item to be delivered to the recipient.

2. (Previously presented) The item delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the recipient's terminal apparatus is further configured to include information about the delivery agency's public key with the recipient's encryption information being transmitted to the sender's terminal apparatus.

3. (Previously presented) The item delivery system according to claim 1,

wherein the sender's terminal apparatus is configured to obtain a public key from the delivery agency via a specified medium, to use the public key obtained to encrypt sender information so as to provide sender's encryption information that is included with the tangible item forwarded to the delivery agency by the sender; and

wherein the cryptogram reader is further configured to read and decrypt the output sender's encryption information using a secret key known only to the delivery agency so that the delivery agency obtains the sender information.

4. (Original) The item delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the recipient's encryption information contains at least coded information.

5. (Previously presented) The item delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the recipient's encryption information contains at least a name identifying the recipient.

6. (Currently amended) A delivery agency server apparatus of a delivery agency which delivers a tangible item sent to it by a sender to a recipient, wherein a public switched telephone network is used to make a communication connection between a sender's terminal apparatus of the sender and a recipient's terminal apparatus of the recipient, the delivery agent server apparatus comprises:

a public key management means for managing a public key to execute an encryption program which encrypts recipient information containing at least private information needed for delivery of the tangible items item to the recipient;

a public key transmission means for transmitting the public key to the recipient's terminal apparatus in response to a request from the recipient's terminal apparatus;

a secret key management means for managing a secret key to decrypt recipient's encryption information encrypted by the encryption program using the public key for obtaining at least recipient's private information needed for ~~the~~ delivery of ~~the~~ tangible ~~items~~ item forwarded to the delivery agency by the sender along with a tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information; and

a secret key provision means for providing the secret key to a cryptogram reader configured to read and decrypt the tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information to obtain the private information needed for delivering the tangible ~~items~~ item to the recipient.

7. (Previously presented) The delivery agent server apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein the public key transmission means also transmits the public key to the sender's terminal apparatus in response to a request from the sender's terminal apparatus;

wherein a sender encryption program uses the public key to encrypt sender information about the sender to generate sender's encryption information forwarded to the delivery agency by the sender along with the tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information and the tangible item; and

wherein the secret key also reads and decrypts the sender's encryption information.

8. (Previously presented) The item delivery system according to claim 6, wherein the recipient's encryption information contains at least a name identifying the recipient.

9. (Currently amended) A cryptogram reader connectable to a delivery agency server apparatus of a delivery agency which delivers a tangible item to a recipient that has been forwarded to the delivery agency by a sender along with a tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing encrypted information needed to deliver the tangible item to the recipient, wherein a public switched telephone network is used to make a communication connection between a sender's terminal apparatus of the sender and a recipient's terminal apparatus of the recipient, the cryptogram reader comprises:

a means for obtaining a secret key from the delivery agency server apparatus in order to decrypt the encrypted information needed to deliver the tangible item to the recipient from the encrypted medium forwarded to the delivery agency by the sender along with the tangible item[[,]] ~~the recipient's encrypted information including~~;

a means for reading the encrypted information needed to deliver the tangible item to the recipient from the encrypted medium and for decrypting it using the secret key; and

a means for outputting the decrypted information needed to deliver the tangible item to the recipient as human-readable recipient information.

10. (Previously presented) The cryptogram reader according to claim 9,

wherein the cryptogram reader also decrypts sender's encrypted information to provide sender's private information encrypted by a sender encryption program using the public key; and

wherein the cryptogram reader also outputs the decrypted sender's private information as human-readable sender information.

11. (Previously presented) A tangible item delivery method, comprising:

providing a public communication connection between a sender's terminal apparatus

of a sender of the tangible item to a recipient's terminal apparatus of a recipient intended to

receive the tangible item;

using the recipient's terminal apparatus to obtain a public key from a delivery agency;

using the obtained public key to encrypt recipient information containing at least

private information needed for delivery of the tangible item to the recipient as recipient's

encryption information;

transmitting the recipient's encryption information to the sender's terminal apparatus;

receiving the transmitted recipient's encrypted information at the sender's terminal

apparatus;

providing the received recipient's encryption information as a tangible encrypted

medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information;

including the tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption

information with the tangible item and forwarding both to the delivery agency; and

decrypting the recipient's encrypted information from the tangible encrypted medium

forwarded to the delivery agency with the tangible item using a secret key known only to the

delivery agency so that the delivery agency obtains the private information needed for

delivery of the tangible item to the recipient.

12. (Previously presented) The item delivery method according to claim 11, further

comprising including information about the public key with the recipient's encryption

information and transmitting both to the sender's terminal apparatus.

13. (Currently amended) The item delivery method according to claim 11, further

comprising:

obtaining a public key using the sender's terminal apparatus;

using the obtained public key to encrypt sender information about the sender as

sender's encryption information;

outputting the sender's encryption information in a form that can be included with the

tangible encrypted medium and tangible item forwarded to the delivery agency; and

decrypting the output sender's encryption information using the secret key known

only to the delivery agency so that the delivery agency obtains the sender information.

14. (Original) The item delivery method according to claim 11, wherein the

recipient's encryption information comprises at least coded information.

15. (Previously presented) The item delivery method according to claim 11, wherein

the recipient's encryption information contains at least a name identifying the recipient.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently amended) A computer-readable tangible storage medium carrying a

program for a computer of a delivery agency which delivers a tangible item sent to it by a

sender to a recipient, wherein a public switched telephone network is used to make a

communication connection between a sender's terminal apparatus of the sender and a

recipient's terminal apparatus of the recipient, the program allows the computer to function

as:

a public key management means for managing a public key to execute an encryption

program which encrypts recipient information containing at least private information needed

for delivery of the tangible items item to the recipient;

a public key transmission means for transmitting the public key to the recipient's

terminal apparatus in response to a request from the recipient's terminal apparatus;

a secret key management means for managing a secret key to decrypt recipient's

encryption information encrypted by the encryption program using the public key for

obtaining at least recipient's private information needed for delivery of the tangible ~~items~~

item forwarded to the delivery agency by the sender along with a tangible encrypted medium

carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information; and

a secret key provision means for providing the secret key to a cryptogram reader

configured to read and decrypt the tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the

recipient's encryption information to obtain the private information needed for delivering the

tangible ~~items~~ item to the recipient.